



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC OPENS CASE

Jefferson City (December 12, 2003)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has opened a case to investigate the sale or distribution of gas and electricity in Missouri by entities that are not certificated by the Public Service Commission.

The PSC Staff had asked the Commission to open a case. Staff stated that it had received a request from the Assistant Superintendent of Salem R-80 Schools for information regarding a company offering natural gas service. Upon further review, the PSC Staff determined that the company, Cornerstone Energy, Inc., is not certificated with the Missouri Public Service Commission to provide energy service under state statutes. In addition, the PSC Staff had no information regarding the company's financial health or its customer service record with regard to the sale of natural gas.

Based on information gathered by the PSC Staff and the specific example of Cornerstone, the PSC Staff states "it appears that energy services are likely being offered in Missouri by entities not registered with the Commission, in violation of Sections 393.297-.302, RSMo 2000."

The Commission granted the request to open a case and has directed the PSC Staff to investigate and report on the following items:

- 1) What sellers are providing "energy services" as defined by Sections 393.297-.302, RSMo 2000?
- 2) Of these sellers providing "energy services," which ones are operating without the required certification from the Commission?
- 3) Are any of these sellers affiliated with electric and gas distributors in Missouri?
- 4) Are these sellers registered with the Missouri Secretary of State to do business in Missouri?
- 5) Should the Commission's certification process be modified to address the financial, technical, and managerial capabilities of sellers providing service in Missouri?
- 6) What plan of action do the parties in this case recommend to ensure full compliance with the statutes by all energy sellers?

To ensure prompt resolution of this case, the Commission has directed parties in this case to meet in a prehearing conference on February 4, 2004, in the Commission's Jefferson City offices in the Governor Office Building.

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